

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0850 2611641
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 171641Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3722
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY 3532
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0423
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 1044
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5681
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 4040
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0107
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0137
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0395

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000850

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

PLEASE PASS TO G FOR JOAQUIN FERRAO
PLEASE PASS TO DRL/MLGA FOR LAURA JORDAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [CI](#) [IN](#) [SF](#)
SUBJECT: CHILE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 97313

11. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel points to Jaime Acuna, Deputy Director of the MFA's Office of Multilateral Affairs, and Olivia Cook, Third Secretary, of the same office, on September 16. Chile agreed that, in principle, individual countries should not be allowed to block country-specific statements. However, Acuna felt that the best approach to resolving this issue would be to improve or clarify the process by which the Convening Group makes decisions.

12. (SBU) Chile would not feel comfortable publicly criticizing nations who block country-specific resolutions. Acuna noted that he had just returned from a posting to South Africa and that the country is an "authentic democracy" and should be allowed to make its own foreign policy decisions. He also noted that both South Africa and India were large countries with a major influence on world events, in comparison to small Chile. Finally, Acuna stated that conserving Convening Group unity should be a major goal.

13. (SBU) Chile is eager to support the Community of Democracies (CD) and expects to participate in the democracy and development working group. Due to the size of the country and its diplomatic corps, Chile finds it difficult to second officials to international organizations such as the CD Secretariat or UN Democracy Fund. Cook noted that Chile had contributed to Democracy Fund efforts to publish the Diplomat's Handbook in the past. Acuna said that Chile would "definitely" make a contribution to either the Secretariat or the Democracy Fund in 2009, but he was uncertain which organization Chile would support and said that the contribution might not be very large.
SIMONS